



25th Anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (IPI) Global Campaign

Statement from the Philippines

The Philippines, as a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), reaffirms its commitment to advancing the sustainable use and conservation of pollinators in line with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2024–2040 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Relative to this, the Philippines has committed to achieving key agriculture-related targets under the PBSAP-KMGBF. These include Target 4, which focuses on the management of species and genetic biodiversity, and Target 10, which promotes the sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry. Both targets are relevant to the conservation of agricultural ecosystems and promote the diversification of pollinators. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in particular, recognizes the importance of conserving agricultural biodiversity (agrobiodiversity) to support sustainable food systems and highlights the role of pollinators as drivers of biodiversity.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), these pollinators—ranging from birds and bats to bees and other insects—support 35% of global crop production and improve yields in 87 of the 115 major food crops, including fruits, vegetables, forage, and seeds. In tropical landscapes, bats also aid in natural reforestation by dispersing seeds.

To safeguard these ecological allies, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) is leading the ongoing formulation of the *Philippine Flying Fox Conservation and Management Action Plan 2023–2032*. This strategic plan addresses key threats to flying fox populations, such as hunting, and aims to gather essential data and stakeholder input to strengthen their protection.

In pursuit of PBSAP-KMGBF Targets 4 and 10, among others, the Philippines is advancing a national agrobiodiversity program. Jointly led by the DENR, through BMB, and the Department of Agriculture (DA), and guided by Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2021-01, the initiative promotes the mainstreaming Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAPs) across protected areas and wider agricultural landscapes. This program aims to strike a balance between agricultural development and biodiversity conservation, while also supporting food production, livelihoods, and cultural heritage of local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

Further strengthening its commitment, the Philippines has adopted the Philippine National Standards (PNS) on Organic Beekeeping, developed by the DA–Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS), and with inputs from stakeholders such as the DENR-BMB. These standards ensure the sustainable management and handling of bees, supporting both their conservation and economic potential.

Looking ahead, the Philippines is steadfast in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and policy coherence to advance the conservation of agrobiodiversity. Through science-based action and inclusive governance, the nation continues to champion biodiversity as a foundation for sustainable development, both locally and globally.